

## Message Text

PAGE 01 ST JOH 00172 310113Z

13  
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 L-03 SCA-01 SCSE-00 SS-15 PRS-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01

SIL-01 RSR-01 NSC-10 /086 W  
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P 310009Z AUG 73  
FM AMCONSUL ST JOHNS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 937  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

UNCLAS ST JOHNS 172

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: CA, CASC, ELAB  
SUBJ: STRANDED TOURISTS  
REF: OUR170,171 AND PREVIOUS

I VISITED THREE TOURIST CAMPSITES AND SPOKE TO GROUP OF ABOUT 300 STRANDED TOURISTS IN PORT AUX BASQUE/STEVENVILLE AREA TODAY. INCLUDED WERE 51 FAMILIES FROM 19 STATES. COMMITTEE OF AMERICANS STRESSED HEALTH HAZARD, POOR WATER, ACUTE ANXIETY. IF MAJOR RPT MAJOR HEALTH PROBLEM DOES ARISE NEAREST MAJOR HOSPITAL 500 MILES AWAY AT ST JOHNS DUE TO HOSPITAL STRIKES. NO TELEGRAPH SERVICE DUE TO STRIKE. MANY LOW ON FUNDS AND EXISTING ON CREDIT CARDS. LIONS CLUB STILL FEEDING STRANDED TOURISTS BUT THEIR SUPPLIES RUNNING LOW. REGARDING SHELTER A GYM IS OPEN BUT SOME ARE STILL SLEEPING IN THEIR CARS.

EUTIMATE 600 AMERICANS STRUNGOUT 500 MILES ACROSS ISLAND. IMPOSSIBLE TO GIVE ACCURATE NUMBER. THOSE AT PORT AUX BASQUE HAVE LOST ALL FAITH IN CROSSING BY FERRY AS SOME UNION PEOPLE HAVE SAID THEY COULD STILL STALL SERVICE FOR UP TO A WEEK WITH CREW CHANGES, ETC., SHOULD THEY DESIRE EVEN IF ORDERED BACK TO WORK.

AIR CANADA PUTTING ON FLIGHT DEPARTING STEVENVILLE 0200 AUGUST 31. SCHEDULED TO CARRY 90 PASSENGERS TO NORTH SYDNEY. AMERICANS SAY THIS IS NOT THE ANSWER TO THEIR PLIGHT AND SEEM COMMITTED TO IDEA OF BEING AIRLIFTED WITH RPT WITH THEIR VEHICLES FROM ISLAND. TOURISTS EXERTING PUBLIC OPINION CAMPAIGN BY PHONE  
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PAGE 02 ST JOH 00172 310113Z

TO STATES. CRITICAL OF STATE DEPT "INACTION". GROUP ASKED ME TO PERSONALLY NOTIFY PRESIDENT OF THEIR PLIGHT.(DEPT MAY WISH TO INFORM WHITE HOUSE).

AS I SEE IT WITH TEMPERS FRAYED FROM A 8-10 DAY WAIT IF

SOMETHING IS NOT DONE IN NEXT DAY OR SO SITUATION WILL TURN NASTY.  
IDEALLY, FIRM, UNEQUIVICAL COMMITMENT BY GOC TO OPERATE FERRY IN  
NEXT DAY OR SO COULD DEFUSE SITUATION. SHOULD STRIKE CONTINUE MUCH  
BEYOND WEEKEND WE CAN EXPECT DIFFICULTY IN SEPERATING TOURISTS  
FROM THEIR VEHICLES.  
DOBBS

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